(d) whether any inquiry was conducted into the incident; if so what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether any action has been taken against the RPF personnel; if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Cases of crime on Railways are reported to, registered and investigated by the State agencies including Government Railway Police which functions under the control of the State Governments. Information regarding thefts/dacoities on individual trains and the number of cases solved out of registered cases is not compiled by the Central agencies.

(c) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fall in prices of gold

169. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to indiscriminate smuggling of gold during the last six months, the prices of gold have decreased in Indian markets;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is sharp slide in yellow metal's prices in international markets;

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(e) what are the details of gold production in India during the last three years and also the quantum of smuggled gold detected during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). Smuggling is a clandestine activity and it is not possible to make an estimate of gold being smuggled into the country. The increase/decrease in prices of gold in the domestic markets and the magnitude of smuggling of gold in the country is determined largely by :—

(i) High domestic demand due to social customs;

(ii) Demand for hoarding purposes as a security and hedge against inflation;

(iii) Negligible indigenous production and supplies;

(iv) Profitability due to wide differential between low international price and rising domestic prices;

(v) Effective anti-smuggling measures; and

(vi) Fall in the value of dollar.

(c) and (d) There has been a decline in the international (London) prices of gold since December, 1987. As gold is not an essential commodity, the government does not consider it necessary to take any measures regarding prices of gold in the light of fluctuations in the price of gold in the domestic and international markets.

(e) The domestic production of gold during the last three years is :

1985	1852.7 kgs.
1986	1931.1 kgs.
1987	1864.2 kgs.

Quantity of smuggled gold seized during the last three years is :

1985	2525 kgs.
1986	2174 kgs.
1987	2245 kgs. (Provisional)